



November 1, 2021

California Citizens Redistricting Committee

Via submission to public comment portal at publiccomment.redistricting.lacounty.gov

Re: Draft Supervisorial Districting Map dividing Santa Monica into two different districts – OBJECT

Dear Commissioners:

The Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights (SMRR) executive committee voted unanimously at its October 30, 2021 meeting to convey our strong objection to Draft Supervisorial Districting Map Option B because it separates residents of Santa Monica into two different districts. We urge you to oppose Draft Option B and to oppose any future draft proposals to divide Santa Monica.

SMRR was founded more than 40 years ago to combat the ongoing displacement of lower income residents from our eight square mile beach city due to rapidly rising housing costs. Our success is due in large part to the fact that our community as a whole shares common interests and needs to be kept together. Over the ensuing 40 years, SMRR led successful campaigns to add rent control to the Santa Monica City Charter (1979); to add to the Charter a mandate that the City Council ensure that at least 30% of all new multi-family housing constructed each year be deed-restricted housing affordable to and occupied by moderate and low income households (1990); to impose by Ordinance inclusionary zoning affordable housing requirements on for-profit developers that provide to the developers increased height and density in exchange for increased inclusionary requirements (1992); to add to the City Charter authorization to expend City funds for affordable housing (1998); to dedicate public land and spend public funds to create deed-restricted affordable housing (from 1979 through the present); to increase the local sales tax to generate new funds for affordable housing after the State eliminated Redevelopment funding (2016); and to create and expand a local rent subsidy pilot program to keep extremely low and very low income seniors in their long time homes (2017, 2019). As a result of these efforts—and notwithstanding the Great Recession—the City of Santa Monica met its RHNA goals in the last two cycles not only for the creation of market rate housing, but also for the creation of deed-restricted housing affordable to moderate and low income households. These successes are the results of our community acting together with common purpose.

Our efforts to help produce affordable housing are just one aspect of the work our organization does to help maintain Santa Monica as a diverse, sustainable community. From our support of Santa Monica's working families and local businesses, to our support of environmental endeavors that protect natural resources and care for the coastline, Santa Monicans are very united and therefore dividing our community in two would serve to erode existing and future progress.

Please oppose any efforts to create districts that divide the city of Santa Monica. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Denny Zane
Co-Chair, Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights

Mike Soloff
Co-Chair, Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights